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BCStats

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Labour Force Statistics ◆ October 2010

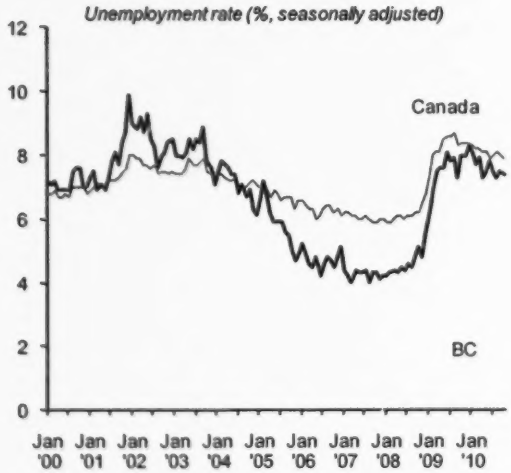
(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Unemployment rate creeps down to 7.4% in October

British Columbia's jobless rate declined slightly in October, falling 0.1 percentage points to 7.4%. The improvement in the jobless rate was a result of a marginal increase in employment (+0.1%).

Relative to the nation, B.C.'s unemployment rate has improved over the past decade. For example, in October 2000, the unemployment rate in B.C. was 7.6%, 0.6 percentage points above the national average (7.0%). Today, however, B.C.'s jobless rate is 0.5 percentage points below the national rate of 7.9%.

A decade ago, B.C.'s jobless rate was above the national average, today it is below



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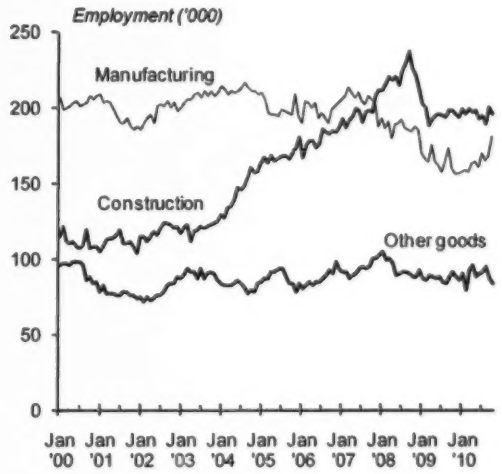
Manufacturing fuels job growth in the goods sector

The goods-producing sector posted job gains again in October (+0.7%). Most of the employment growth in the goods sector was attributable to manufacturing (+7.3%), although there were also gains in utilities (+8.4%). Increases in manufacturing and utilities were partly offset by job losses in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-10.6%), construction (-2.5%), and agriculture (-1.2%).

Over the past twelve months, employment in the goods sector has grown by 2.2%. All of this increase has been fuelled by growth in manufacturing (+13.3%).

Recent growth in the goods sector has been fuelled by manufacturing



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In the services-producing sector, employment shrank slightly in October (-0.1%). The largest decline was in health care and social assistance (-5.3%), with more moderate losses observed in accommodation and food services (-2.7%), public administration (-1.7%), information, culture and

recreation (-1.4%), trade (-1.3%), and business, building and other support services (-1.0%).

Educational services (+7.8%) and transportation and warehousing (+5.7%) were the fastest-growing services in October; both of these industries have shown strong growth over the past year. Modest job increases in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+2.3%), professional, scientific and technical services (+0.6%), and other services (+2.5%) also helped offset October's job losses in other service industries.

Off-reserve Aboriginal Population

In October (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), the labour force participation rate of the off-reserve Aboriginal population aged 25 to 54 was 69.4%, compared with 86.3% for their non-Aboriginal counterpart. This gap has widened considerably since October 2009, when participation rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations aged 25 to 54 were 75.1% and 85.5%, respectively.

Immigrant Population

Indicators suggest that it takes longer for female immigrants to integrate into B.C.'s labour market than males. In October (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), the labour force participation rate of B.C.'s female landed immigrant population (aged 25 to 54) was 76.5%, while the rate among their Canadian-born counterparts was 7.2 percentage points higher, at 83.7%. Most of this difference is a result of lower participation rates among more recent female immigrants. In contrast, the labour force participation rate among male landed immigrants (aged 25 to 54) was virtually identical to that of Canadian-born males (90.7% vs. 90.9%, respectively).

The Regions

At the regional level, unemployment rates (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from 6.1% (Vancouver Island/Coast) to 9.4% (Kootenay). Compared to the same time last year, employment (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) has increased in every region of the province except Kootenay (-6.3%) and North Coast/Nechako (-2.8%).

Employment continues to decline in Kootenay

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The Nation

Nationwide, both employment and the number of persons in the labour force remained virtually unchanged in October, and the jobless rate dropped 0.1 percentage points, to 7.9%. Prince Edward Island (+1.7%) and Alberta (+0.8%) were the only provinces to register notable job gains.

Selected Statistics	Oct-10	Sep-10	Oct-09
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	7.5	8.0
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	8.0	8.4
BC Employment ('000)	2,322	2,320	2,262
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	66.0	66.1	66.0
Oct % change in employment relative to:	-	0.1	2.7
Oct % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.0	2.0